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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/542,285	07/15/2005	Sint Baron	NL 030057	5283
24737	7590	05/04/2006	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			LANDRUM, EDWARD F	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3724	

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/542,285

Applicant(s)

BARON ET AL.

Examiner

Edward F. Landrum

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 July 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/15/05, 3/31/06

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the number of shaving heads being more than three, and the elements on the shear-plate holder must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show the ribs or grooves formed on the wall of the cavity in each spindle as described in the

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specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter

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that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The number of elements formed in the shear-plate holder (2) were not described in the specification and it is not understood what their function is or how they are attached or formed onto the shear-plate holder.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cooksey (U.S Patent No. 3,314,146).

Regarding claim 1, Cooksey teaches (see Figures 1-6) a shaving apparatus comprising a plurality of shaving heads, each comprising a circular shear plate (30) provided with apertures (34); a rotatable cutting member (33) rotates relative to the shear plate (30). A motor (10) powers provides power to the blades through a drive structure. The drive structure comprises a plurality of drive units (see Figure 5) that each extend from a drive rim (39) and end at a coupling end (the base of gear 36). The axes of rotation for each drive rim (39) are oriented at various angles relative to each other (see Figure 1) and diverge from each other in a direction from the drive rim (39) to the coupling end.

Regarding claim 2, Cooksey teaches (see Figure 1) the axes of rotation between each drive rim (39) is at least 3 degrees.

Regarding claims 4 and 5, Cooksey teaches (see Figures 1 and 5) a shear plate holder (container holding the motor 10) comprising a number of elements (32) each holding at least one shear plate (30). The elements are can tilt relative to each other and extend at angles relative to each other.

Regarding claim 6, Cooksey teaches (see Figure 1) at least two of the angles between the axes of rotation of the drive rims (39) are different from each other.

Regarding claim 7, Cooksey teaches (see Figures 1 and 2) the shaving apparatus comprising four shaving heads.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bijl et al (U.S Patent No. 4,257,161), hereinafter Bijl, in view of Park (U.S Patent No. 5,129,275).

Regarding claim 1, Bijl teaches (Col. 2, lines 40-57; also see Figures 1-6) a shaving apparatus comprising a plurality of shaving heads, each comprising a circular shear plate (3) provided with apertures (4); a rotatable cutting member (5) rotates relative to the shear plate (30). A motor (10) powers provides power to the blades

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through a drive structure. The drive structure comprises a plurality of drive units that each extend from a drive rim (7) and end at a coupling end (32). The axes of rotation (22) for each drive rim (7) is oriented perpendicularly but diverges from the center of the shaving head as it approaches the coupling end (see Figure 3). The axes of rotation diverge because a coupling spindle (6) attached to each rim through recesses (20) found in the spindle (6) that projections (24) attached to the rim fit in.

Regarding claim 2, Bijl teaches (see Figure 3) the axes of rotation between each drive rim (39) is at least 3 degrees.

Regarding claim 3, Bijl teaches (see Figure 2) each drive rim (7) engaging a central gear wheel (8).

Regarding claim 6, Bijl teaches (Col. 1, lines 21-29) that all three spindles (6) are able to tilt and therefore all are capable of have rotational axes that are angled differently from each other.

Bijl teaches all of the elements of the current invention as stated above except the drive rims meeting the central gear at different, diverging, angles, each angle at least 3 degrees.

Park teaches (Col. 2, lines 1-19; also see Figures 1-3f) spring-biased, semi-spherical bevel gears able to mesh various angles to allow a user to not to have to fix the gearing angle and still freely transmit force to the drive shafts.

It would have been obvious to have modified Bijl to incorporate the teachings of Park to replace the drive rim and spindle attachment with the spring-loaded, semi-spherical gears and shafts to reduce power loss due to friction and reduce wear

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between parts. Incorporating the semi-spherical gears would also allow the same gear setup to be used on many different size shaving units that could require various shaft angles to meet the drive mechanism to the cutter blades thereby increasing manufacturing efficiency by increasing the amount of standardized parts available for multiple shavers.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Labrijn (U.S Patent No. 4,910,869), Yonkers (U.S Patent No. 3,844,033), and Herrick et al (U.S Patent No. 4,077,120) teach drive shafts which can pivot relative to the drive gears. Visman et al (U.S Patent No. 6,722,038) teach triangular coupling ends.

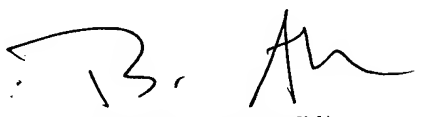
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward F. Landrum whose telephone number is 571-272-5567. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EFL
4/21/2006



BOYER D. ASHLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER